



Cadet found guilty of steroid-related violations

U.S. AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. (AFPN) – A general court-martial found a cadet here guilty of steroid-related violations Jan. 15 and dismissed him from the Air Force.

Lt. Col. Kurt Schuman, military judge, found Cadet Jonathan Belkowitz guilty of making a false official statement and soliciting another to purchase and use steroids.

Cadet Belkowitz was found not guilty of four counts of wrongful use, importation, introduction and distribution, but he was found guilty of a lesser included offense of attempting these four violations.

Cadet Belkowitz faced a maximum punishment of 50 years imprisonment, forfeiture of all pay and allowances and a dismissal from the Air Force.

The case will next be reviewed by the general court-martial convening authority, Lt. Gen. John W. Rosa Jr., academy superintendent. General Rosa may choose from three options: agree with the finding and sentence, reduce the sentence or set aside all or part of the findings.

Kadena Airmen ensure world link

UTAPAO, Thailand (AFPN) – Although they are not in the thick of things handing out food and supplies, Airmen from the 18th Communications Squadron at Kadena Air Base, Japan, said that the parade of huge lumbering aircraft that come and go from here, only validates how their mission affects the success of relief operations.

The 22-person “comm” team ensures that the command staff here has the proper tools to coordinate relief operations stretching from Thailand, Malaysia, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and other parts of Asia.

“Our job is to provide an outside link for the deployed joint forces. We’re very excited to help,” said Capt. Robert Bonner, commander of the deployed unit.

The group provides telephone service, computer, fax, e-mail and Internet support. They also have a 24-hour help desk for those who need help. The Airmen said without comm, relief operations here would grind to a halt.

The Airmen brought seven pallets that held 30,000 pounds of equipment, including satellite dish and tents.

Captain Bonner said the equipment provides a state-of-the-art, ground-to-ground communications infrastructure that transmits and receives voice,

data and video communications securely to or from wireless, satellite or hard-wired sources.

The system is also both mobile and modular, and it can be moved anywhere in the world for military contingencies.

And although the Airmen have used the equipment during exercises, they have never deployed with it on a real-world mission. *(Story by Master Sgt. Val Gempis, Air Force Print News)*

DOD approves expanded use of flu vaccine

WASHINGTON (AFPN) – As part of national efforts to protect more people against the flu, the Defense Department’s top health official authorized the use of military flu vaccine previously held in reserve Jan. 14.

Dr. William Winkenwerder Jr. signed a memorandum directing the expanded use of stored flu shot serum for servicemembers and other eligible recipients such as family members and military retirees. This policy change allows the services to use flu shots for nonhigh risk persons, including active-duty, while continuing their aggressive efforts to get high-risk beneficiaries vaccinated.

The flu is a contagious respiratory illness caused by influenza viruses. About 36,000 Americans die from the flu each year.

A major vaccine provider to the United States had announced in October that its vaccine was defective. DOD officials then directed that servicemembers being deployed overseas and other eligible recipients at potential high risk to the flu, including seniors and the very young, receive priority to get flu vaccinations.

Vaccination against the flu remains mandatory “for servicemembers whose command has vaccine available to them,” officials said.

DOD will dispense this year’s stored flu vaccine rather than letting it go to waste. Flu vaccines are developed to target specific virus strains expected only for that particular season. This year’s flu season is expected to peak sometime in February, officials said. *(Story by of Gerry Gilmore American Forces Press Service)*

Dover Airman pulls mom, boy from burning car

DOVER AIR FORCE BASE, Del. (AFPN) – An Airman here saved the lives of a woman and her 9-year-old son after she lost control of her car near Millsboro recently. The car

ran off the road, hit a tree, overturned in a ditch and caught fire.

Senior Airman Marcus Hyatt, of the 436th Medical Support Squadron, and his friend NaKisha Collins were on their way to pick up a car before Airman Hyatt left for Tennessee to surprise his mother. Ms. Collins took a different route than she normally does, and Airman Hyatt was settling in the passenger seat to fall asleep.

“I felt the car stop, and I asked her what was wrong,” he said. “She said that she thought she saw a car in the ditch on fire.”

They found an overturned Volkswagen Jetta.

“Flames were coming up from under the hood, and the car was flipped on its side. I stood there a minute, frozen in shock,” Airman Hyatt said.

He called 911, and the dispatcher asked him if he could hear anyone calling for help or if he could see if anyone was inside the car.

“As I approached the car, I could see a lady hanging out the front passenger window,” he said. “It still wasn’t registering in my mind, and as I looked around I didn’t see anyone that could help her.”

That is when he realized he was the only person capable of saving the woman.

“All of a sudden I ran over and started trying to pull her out of the window,” Airman Hyatt said. “But her hand was stuck in the door, and I couldn’t get her out.”

While trying to get the woman out through the window, Airman Hyatt said he glanced into the back seat of the vehicle and saw her son.

“I pulled him out the back window and set him on the ground and told him to run up the hill to my friend,” Airman Hyatt said. “But he kept asking about his mommy and if she was going to be all right.”

After convincing the boy to go to his friend, Airman Hyatt turned his attention back toward the boy’s mother.

“I struggled with her for what seemed like hours, but it was probably just about three or four minutes,” Airman Hyatt said. “She kept saying, ‘Get my son out. Get my son out,’ and I said, ‘Ma’am, I got your son out, but we have to get away from this car before it blows up.’”

After freeing the woman, Airman Hyatt said he figured the hardest part was over; however, the woman weighed more than him, and he struggled up the ditch.

“Every time I got her on her feet to get away from the car, she would fall and take me down with her,” Airman Hyatt said. “I kept telling her that we have to get away, because in the



Photo by Master Sgt. John E. Lasky

All night long

RAMSTEIN AIR BASE, Germany – Staff Sgt. David Bell searches for the cause of a throttling problem with a C-130 Hercules engine here. Sergeant Bell is an engine mechanic on the night shift assigned to the 86th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

movies, the cars always blow up.” *(Story by of Senior Airman Brian Stives, 436th Air Wing Public Affairs)*

Guam tour lengths become longer

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas (AFPN) – The

assistant secretary of defense has approved a tour length change to Guam.

Beginning Jan. 1, 2006, accompanied tours will change from 24 to 36 months, and unaccompanied tours will go from 15 to 24 months. This makes an assignment to the island a long tour versus a short tour.

Airmen who report to Guam

before Dec. 31 will continue to receive short tour credit. Those reporting on or after Jan. 1 will serve the long tour and subsequently receive long-tour credit.

Airmen can contact their local military personnel flight for more information. *(Courtesy of Air Force Personnel Center News Service)*